

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5

APPARATUS AND METHOD OF LIMITING APPLICATION PROGRAM USAGE

10 A method, system and apparatus for limiting the use of
an application program by a user are provided. A cross-
reference table containing a list of all users authorized to
use a computer system as well as a list of all application
programs installed on a computer system is used. The cross-
reference table includes an amount of time that each user is
15 authorized to use an application program. When a user tries
to execute the application program, a check of the table is
made to determine whether the user is authorized to use the
program. If the user is authorized to use the program, the
program will be allowed to execute and a timer will be
20 activated. The timer is used to ensure that the user does
not spend more time using the application program than
allowed. Another check may be made to ensure that the user
is not using the application program more often than
allowed.